

**THE ROYAL SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE SOCIETY  
GLASGOW BRANCH  
Charity Registered in Scotland  
SC008002**

**Annual General Meeting held at 1900 hours on Thursday 15 May 2025  
In Renfield Training and Conference Centre, Glasgow G2 4JP**

*37 members attended. Ian Johnson, Chair, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 102nd AGM of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch.*

**1 Apologies for absence:**

Apologies were received from Douglas Cameron, Ina Cameron, Joyce Carmichael, Tom Carmichael, Daphne Davidson, Lorraine Dick, Marion Ganthony, Alasdair Graham, Vijay Iyer, Les Lambert, Lilian Murray, Gordon Murray, Viv O'Duffy, Gordon Porter, Sue Porter, Ian Stewart, Tamara Wanless, Mary Webster and Hilary Wood.

**2 Chair's Remarks**

Unlike recent years, when we were living with Covid regulations, or opening up after them, then celebrating both the Society's and Branch's centenaries, 2024-5 was a very 'ordinary' year. It was a year for adapting to the 'new normal' for Scottish country dancing in Glasgow.

Much of the year has seen the Branch doing what it usually does, of which the Branch Report gives more detail. As outlined in the Spring Newsletter, the Committee tries a balancing act with Branch classes – on the one hand seeking to promote Scottish country dancing by encouraging more people to take it up, while at the same time stewarding the Branch's resources to meet its obligations to the members and the requirements of charity law. Predicting numbers at Beginners Classes is very difficult. Westerton, which has had good numbers in recent years, saw a sharp drop in numbers, to between 1 - 4 each week. Garnethill, which had been languishing at low numbers in the Autumn, suddenly attracted new people in the new year. This will require ongoing monitoring and consideration. The Westerton Beginners class is however being paused for 2025-6 as it has not been possible to find a teacher able to commit to 2x10 week sessions.

We have also tried to use the past twelve months to review and update our administration and practices – and this is still ongoing. The Committee Handbook has been updated and work is continuing on creating a digital store for current and archived material (with help from Mary Webster and Cameron Raeburn). Alongside the Branch Constitution and Rules we also have to operate within the requirements of UK and Scottish legislation – charity laws/ safeguarding/ diversity/ equality/ privacy etc – and the last year has seen some new requirements in a number of these areas. This has taken up quite a bit of time and effort both within and outside Committee meetings.

Last year's AGM saw some significant changes to the Committee – all the Office-bearers and the majority of the Convenors were new to their posts. Adapting to the new roles was not made easier by our bank's computer system being asked to change signatories on the bank account. It took it 3 months to accept Aileen McKenzie as our new Treasurer, I was given telephone banking access that I hadn't requested to a personal account elsewhere in Lloyds Banking Group, and Hilary Wood was locked out of her personal accounts for a time! Thanks to Marilyn Mowbray who kept things going during that period.

As well as looking at how we can do what we do more effectively and efficiently now, the Committee have also been considering the future, and we will be focussing more on this in the coming year:

- we are working on a medium-term plan, looking to include issues and ideas identified in the survey of members, including whether we need to make any adjustments to classes and dances, as we move into the second quarter of the 21st Century
- over the past year we have been working with the Society, represented by Sebastian Wanless, in promoting Scottish country dancing as a way of boosting mental and physical health through the Barlanark class. It may be that in the future there will be further opportunities to develop other such initiatives in the Glasgow area – using the time and experience of members and Committee members, but not directly funding them
- as we will hear later, the Nan Inch Fund is approaching its end, and we have been considering how we might use our Reserves to promote Scottish country dancing in the future – particularly among young people.

Finally, may I express my thanks, and the Branch's thanks to all who enable Glasgow Branch to operate:

- the Committee
- the online team of Mary Webster, Margaret Tough and Cameron Raeburn
- Newsletter editor Peter Knapman
- Archivist Chris Sanders
- All teachers, musicians and class reps
- The Safeguarding Team of Anne Thorn and Carol-Ann Knox
- Those who assist Revathy Nayar with online photos and videos, including Debbie McAlees, Lyndsey McCrudden, Amy Bryson and Eilidh Hart
- Those who join in Outreach demo teams
- Those who help with half-time refreshments
- Susan Ewington and all her helpers at the Glasgow Music Festival
- Fiona McDonald and her helpers at the Glasgow Primary Schools Day of Dance, and Walter Proven and helpers at the Bearsden and Milngavie Primary Schools Day of Dance
- The leaders of the Seniors Group, Maureen Daniel and Maureen McCrudden
- The leaders of the Linked Groups who keep Glasgow Branch in front of the wider Scottish country dance community in the area

### **3 Minutes of AGM held on 16 May 2024**

The Minutes of the 2024 AGM have been available on our website. The Secretary stated that a few adjustments were made to the minutes as a result of members contacting her. These were read out and approved by members.

Approval:

Proposed by Fiona McDonald

Seconded by Peter Knapman

#### **4 Matters arising**

Peter Knapman referred Branch members to the last item of last year's AGM where Mary Webster asked the Branch committee to put forward a motion to the RSCDS AGM. The Chair explained that motions need to be seconded by another Branch before submission to the RSCDS by the August deadline. This was a very tight turnaround and so he had spoken to the Branch's RSCDS link person (Heather Cowan) who had suggested he contact Lizzie Conder (RSCDS Treasurer). In the interim the Chair had received notification of Zoom meetings with Jon Berridge and had drafted a series of questions which he and Hilary Wood would ask at the Zoom meeting. The Chair added that the questions posed at this Zoom meeting had been published in the Spring Newsletter. He explained that despite contacting Jon Berridge on three separate occasions between October and December the promised report summarising the content of all the Zoom meetings which had been held with Branches had not been forthcoming and it was not until fairly recently that an email had been sent apologising that some Branches had not received the report in December.

Peter Knapman commented that he had concerns about the disconnect between the Society and Branches. He felt that members should be able to speak at the AGM, that there should be an Open Forum (as in the past) and that information should be circulated directly to members instead of the current model where Branches have to disseminate information from the Society to members. He felt that if these actions were taken members would feel more involved and engaged.

The Secretary highlighted that improved communication and engagement was part of the RSCDS Five Year Strategic Plan. Sebastian Wanless added that he had been responsible for putting together the Strategic Plan and so far 352 members had responded. As a result of this feedback, the RSCDS Strategic Plan will be revised and then put forward for approval at the forthcoming Management Board meeting.

Debbie McAlees commented that not being a delegate she felt she did not have an input. Peter Knapman stressed that an Open Forum would be a way for the RSCDS to receive genuine feedback from members.

Robert McColl added that this lack of communication had been ongoing for at least fifteen years. Sebastian Wanless, stated that this may be true in the past but, going forward, this will be addressed.

Margaret Tough stated that she had filled in a Society Survey last year but had not seen any feedback from this. Peter Knapman stated that unless the membership drive the agenda it won't happen.

Muriel Bone added that the Society had kept in touch with members through Dance Scottish at Home during lockdown and continue to keep in touch with members through Dance Scottish Together.

#### **5 Branch Report**

The Branch Report had been circulated to all members in advance on the meeting. One adjustment was made as a result of Susan Ewington emailing the Secretary to advise that Angela Young would be adjudicator of the GMF for 2026.

This is the 102<sup>nd</sup> Report for RSCDS Glasgow Branch.

*Membership:* Our current membership stands at 211 (29 Life members, 127 Adult members, 52 Joint members, 2 Young Adult members, 1 Youth member). In addition, we have 22 Associate members and 11 Linked Groups.

*Classes:* Classes began in September 2024 with 7 Branch Classes running over the year catering for dancers of all abilities from beginners to experienced. As in previous years, Hillpark Beginners had two additional classes in April. Additionally, 3 Spring Classes were held with three different guest teachers: Abbie Brown, Amy Bryson and Fiona Fairlie. The Branch would like to thank all the musicians and teachers who make our classes possible; it is greatly appreciated.

*Dances:* Eleven dances were held during the last year including the Midwinter Ball in January 2025, three 'Nice & Easy' Dances, Branch Dances and a Challenging Dance.

*Glasgow Branch Newsletters:* Three newsletters have been published during the year. We thank Peter Knapman for continuing in the role of Editor and producing the newsletters with the Committee's and Membership's input. The Newsletters have benefited from interesting and informative contributions from Peter himself. Two Short Newsletters were also produced in June and January.

*RSCDS AGM and Conference Weekend:* This year the Society held their AGM and Autumn Gathering in Edinburgh. 5 delegates attended the AGM and a full report was published in the Winter Newsletter 2024. Many Branch members were present to take part in evening dances and some of the other enjoyable and informative weekend events.

*Glasgow Music Festival:* The Scottish Country Dancing classes of the Glasgow Music Festival took place on Saturday the 8<sup>th</sup> of March in the Renfield Centre, Glasgow. The morning session saw five enthusiastic primary school teams participate in classes 505-508 with experience ranging from beginner to more advanced. All were smartly turned out and were commended on their teamwork and spirited performances of the dances they had chosen. The Marion B Hamilton was awarded to the Dalriada Dancers from the Falkirk area for achieving the highest score of the morning. We were delighted that the Honorary President of GMF, Robert MacDonald, was available to present the certificate to the winning team, which was very appropriate as he is also the nephew of Marion B Hamilton. The afternoon session of classes 501-503 for adults was supported by six teams, some of whom were participating for the first time for many years – including the 'more mature' team from Glasgow. The standard of dancing was excellent with some outstanding performances. The winners of the RSCDS Glasgow Branch Quaich, which is awarded to the team with the highest score of the afternoon, were Glasgow Dancers. We are grateful to Les Lambert for adjudicating. This is his last year as adjudicator, however we are pleased to announce that Angela Young will take over this task for 2026. Excellent music to accompany the dancers was provided all day by Martainn Skene. Thanks also to Maureen Daniel for agreeing to take on the challenging task of recording the comments, to the school staff, dance instructors and of course the pupils and dancers who all worked so hard and to all the Glasgow branch volunteers who acted as stewards on the day. Sincere thanks go to Susan Ewington for all her hard work in making this year's festival a success.

*Primary School Festival - Day of Dance:* This one-day event for Scottish country dancing was once again held in Glasgow City Chambers, hosted by Lord Provost Jacqueline McLaren. 17 Glasgow schools took part with over 20 sets dancing at one time. RSCDS Chair-Elect Sebastian Wanless and Lorna Valentine (Convenor of the RSCDS Scottish Schools Working Group) were in attendance. We were delighted that the deputy Lord Provost Christy Mearns joined in the Dashing White Sergeant. Grateful thanks to Walter Proven - our experienced MC - and to John Carmichael and his band for the excellent music. We would like to extend our thanks to Fiona McDonald who has organised this event for a number of years in partnership with Glasgow Education. Thanks also to the school teachers, parent chaperones, Council staff and to RSCDS Glasgow Branch members for helping to make this a special day.

*Seniors' Group:* Four meetings took place throughout the year, including the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 when one of the founding members of the group, Ruth Beattie, was presented with a well-deserved Branch Award and Eric Finley entertained all present by singing Scottish songs and telling stories. On the 27<sup>th</sup> of June the group was entertained by Amy Spearing, senior chorister at Paisley Abbey, playing the clarsach. The Christmas lunch was held at the Crookston Hotel on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December. Maureen Daniel acted as quiz master after lunch and Branch Chair, Ian Johnson, read a Christmas poem. At the Seniors lunch on the 20<sup>th</sup> of March Branch musician Frank Reid entertained attendees.

*Centenary Book:* The Branch's Centenary book, which was launched at the Mid-Winter Ball of 2023 proved extremely popular and sold out at the beginning of this session. It is now only available in PDF form. The music for each dance is available on Bandcamp and music sales continue to provide revenue for the Branch.

*Outreach:* The Branch has responded to many requests to hold or participate in a wide range of events. We have supplied various teachers, dancers and musicians throughout the year, for a range of activities. Demonstrations took place once again at the Bearsden and Milngavie Highland Games in June and at Neilston Women's Group and Westerton Gala Day in August. Dancers visited Hawthorn Care Home for the first time in October and made a return visit in January. In August there was a demonstration at the Golden Girls Group in Neilston and at the Friendship Group in Giffnock in November. A return visit was made to St. Francis Care Home in Govan in October and again in January.

In August a taster session was organised to support Healing Arts Scotland (HAS) Glasgow Day. Four members of Glasgow Branch gave support at a free half-hour workshop, delivered by Anne Robertson with live music provided by Billy Gray, at the Tramway in Albert Drive. This event was part of a week-long HAS festival being supported by RSCDS. Anne delivered a great lesson where she managed to cover a good number of dances in the short time available to approximately twenty very enthusiastic attendees, all of whom seemed to thoroughly enjoy the experience.

The Branch also supported an initiative to promote physical and mental health in Barlanark in partnership with the RSCDS, Glasgow Life and Alliance Scotland. The Branch provided a teacher and musician and helpers every Tuesday to try to encourage local residents to take up Scottish country dancing as a hobby.

*Branch Administration:* The Committee significantly changed this year with the appointment of Branch Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Chair Elect, Social Convenor, Communications Convenor and Membership Secretary. It remains challenging to attract Members to serve on the Committee. The Committee is operating with one ordinary committee member vacancy and a Class Convenor Group has had to be formed as there were no nominations for the Class

Convenor vacancy. Committee meetings were split between face-to-face meetings at Sherbrooke Parish Church and over Zoom.

Having moved south a few years ago, our Honorary President, Ruth Beattie, decided to step down and John Johnston, our Honorary Vice President, was appointed to this position. Fiona McDonald was appointed Honorary Vice President.

Mary Webster and Margaret Tough continued to provide valuable and timely support and updating of the Branch Website.

Several sub-committees continued work from previous years: e.g. Classes and Dance Programme subcommittees. The Class subcommittee was created to examine our class offering in detail and its work will continue under the newly elected Committee from May 2025. Its remit is to consider how to go forward with classes and dances, ensuring that the Branch meets its obligations to promote Scottish country dancing while being financially responsible and to hear the views of members and teachers on what we offer, anything additional they would like, and their reaction to the changes made to classes and dances in the future. The newly appointed Safeguarding Team met on a number of occasions to revise Branch policies and procedures. Several workshops were organised by the team in order to provide important information about safeguarding to Branch teachers, musicians, Committee members and members of Linked Groups. The Branch's Privacy Policy and GDPR Policy were revised and a Register of Systems document was produced.

*Other Notable Events:* Three members of Glasgow Branch were awarded Branch awards this session for their invaluable services to Scottish country dancing. Ruth Beattie received her award at the Seniors' 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch in October. Due to illness, Johan McLean was unable to attend the Senior's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary lunch and was presented with her award at her home by Ian Johnson later in October. Peter Knapman received his Branch Award at the Midwinter Ball.

Branch Members gathered in the city centre in September and October to rehearse a ceilidh scene for *Lady MacLean*, a short bilingual English-Gaelic film. Written by Lana Pheutan and directed by Catriona MacLeod, the film is part of the inaugural NFTS Sean Connery Talent Lab, which supports emerging filmmakers with backing from the Sean Connery Foundation. Filming took place on 2nd and 3rd October at Partick Burgh Hall. *Lady MacLean* is now in post-production, and the "extras" been told they will be invited to the screening.

Sadly, we lost some branch members and members of our dancing community in the past year. These include Helen and Graham Murray, Bob Blair, Sandra Fraser, Elma Wilson, Robina Marshall and Pat Duchart.

## **6 Financial Report including Trustees' Report for year ended 31 March 2025**

The Chair explained why members had not received a copy of Branch signed off accounts. He highlighted a discrepancy in income: profit in the left-hand column amounted to £2,368.46 but in the right-hand column the profit amounted to £3,700. He explained that when the Skipton Bond was sold at the end of March the interest from it should have appeared in the interest entry in the accounts. He added that it was necessary to identify where the surplus of £213 came from.

As a result, he proposed that the revised accounts be presented for approval at the June Committee meeting, then sent to the Independent Accounts Examiner. Once the accounts are

signed off a signed version would be sent out to members. The Chair apologised for the oversight and the delay in members receiving the accounts.

The Treasurer added that the Festivals income is higher this year due to the fact that two years' payments came into the 2024/5 financial year. She stated that although the Branch had paid for the musician and teacher for the Barlanark spring classes this had not yet been reimbursed by Barlanark Community Centre. The Chair added that although it looks like classes made a loss this will not be as significant once this payment from Barlanark Community Centre is received into the Branch bank account. He reinforced the fact that organising classes is one way we fulfil our commitment to promote Scottish country dancing so if we are making a slight loss here this is permissible. Members should also consider the fact that if class fees increase too much then dancers might not attend Branch classes.

### **The Chair then asked for any questions/comments**

Robert McColl queried if the Independent Accounts Examiner is paid. The Chair confirmed that the person undertaking this role is not paid.

Debbie McAlees queried the differences in Branch running costs in 2024/5 compared to the previous year. The Treasurer stated that this year in the accounts the Branch running costs were divided into different headings/entries compared to last year. The Treasurer also highlighted that the Midwinter Ball was now in a separate entry instead of being subsumed into dances.

The Chair added that although dances had made a slight surplus members should keep in mind that there had been issues with road closures in May and adverse weather in November, December and January on the dates when Branch dances were held. He added that it was likely that hall costs and musician costs will increase but we need to be mindful of keeping ticket prices in line with neighbouring branches in order to encourage dancers to attend our events.

The Chair stated that keeping track of bank payments has been a challenge. Paying for a class or dance by bank transfer is increasingly popular and sometimes the only option. Trying to reconcile payments in with the relevant event can be a challenge, as banks do not always record the preferred reference code. The Treasurer stated that going forward, when teachers bank class money could they send her an email. She also asked those with pay-in books to send her a note of the first and last number of the pay in books so that she could identify who had which pay-in book. Debbie McAlees highlighted the fact that the GMF card reader was very useful.

The Chair added that the Branch still holds significant reserves however concerns about bank charges and accessing bank accounts/bonds, had resulted in the Committee deciding to cash in the Skipton Bond and opening a 90-day account which will ensure that Trustees have access to Branch investments and bank accounts. Since the money in Nan Inch fund has now nearly run out, the Committee agreed to set up a Designated Fund to allow money to be used for projects such as teacher development and encouraging more adults and children to participate in Scottish country dancing. The Committee feel that we must invest in the future of Glasgow Branch.

In conclusion the Chair thanked members for their understanding with regard to the accounts and Jim Gibson (Independent Accounts Examiner) thanked the Treasurer for producing the accounts despite difficult personal circumstances.

## **7 Appointment of External Examiner of the Accounts**

The Chair stated that Jim Gibson is willing act as External Accounts Examiner for 2025/6.

Proposed by Marilyn Mowbray

Seconded by Sebastian Wanless

## **8 Confirmation of President and Vice President**

**Honorary President:** Ian Johnson asked for the confirmation of John Johnston in the role of Honorary President.

Proposed by Meg Barrowman

Seconded by Muriel Bone

**Honorary Vice President:** Ian Johnson asked for the confirmation of Fiona McDonald in the role of Honorary Vice President.

Proposed by Margaret Sanders

Seconded by Debbie McAlees

## **9 Election of Office Bearers and Committee for 2025-2026**

**Chair:** John Johnston as Hon President was invited to take the Chair. John Johnston took the Chair. He stated that over the last year Ian Johnson and the committee have done a stalwart job in running Glasgow Branch.

Ian Johnson was re-elected as Chair of Glasgow Branch

Proposed by Peter Knapman

Seconded by Maureen Daniel

Ian Johnson then took the Chair.

**Chair-elect:** Hilary Wood was re-elected

Proposed by Marjory Dooley

Seconded by Caitlin Abbott

**Secretary:** Anne Thorn was re-elected

Proposed by Lyndsey McCrudden

Seconded by Hamish Gibb

**Treasurer:** Aileen McKenzie was re-elected

Proposed by Revathy Nayar

Seconded by Gale McCallum

**Social Events Convenor:** Margaret Sanders was re-elected.

Proposed by John Johnston

Seconded by Cameron Raeburn

**Communications Convenor:** Revathy Nayar was re-elected.

Proposed by Sebastian Wanless

Seconded by Debbie McAlees

**Outreach Convenor:** Anne Murray was re-elected.

Proposed by Susan Ewington

Seconded by Marilyn Mowbray

**Class Convenor:** The Chair stated that Muriel Bone was willing to take on the role of Class Convenor, in the way that it has been operating over the last year – being convenor of a group where different people take responsibility for booking accommodation, teachers, and musicians. Caitlin Abbott will continue to book teachers; Lyndsey McCrudden will continue to book musicians and Laura Cameron will take over from Marion Cusick and book halls. Hilary Wood and Ian Johnson will stay involved till October, and Muriel will take over from then. The Chair stated that during the period leading up to October Muriel will attend Group meetings and undertake some background work.

Muriel Bone was elected  
Proposed by Aileen Warwick  
Seconded by Fiona McDonald

The Chair thanked Marion Cusick for her work in arranging classes and making hall bookings. Although she stepped down as Class Convenor last year, she continued arranging the hall bookings this year, carefully mentored the team and faithfully turned up at classes in different locations.

**Membership Convenor:** Les Lambert was re-elected.  
Proposed by Maureen McCrudden  
Seconded by Hamish Gibb

**Committee Members:**

The Branch Committee has five ordinary member posts.

The Chair thanked Caitlin Abbott who had served for four years and completed her term on the Committee.

Gale McCallum (who has served for 2 years) was re-elected.  
Proposed by Anne Murray  
Seconded by Susan Ewington

Lyndsey McCrudden (who has served for 2 years) was re-elected.  
Proposed by Revathy Nayar  
Seconded by Anne Robertson

Cameron Raeburn (who has served for 1 year) was re-elected.  
Proposed by Lyndsey McCrudden  
Seconded by Margaret Sanders

The Chair stated that two further committee members were required. He intimated that Anne Robertson was willing to be elected onto the committee.

Proposed by Sebastian Wanless  
Seconded by Aileen McKenzie  
Anne Robertson was elected.

There were no nominees for the other vacant committee position. The Chair stated that the committee had the power to co-opt someone onto the committee in the course of the year if someone came forward.

The Chair thanked those members who were now elected onto the committee for their willingness to work on behalf of the Branch.

### **10 Election of Delegates to RSCDS AGM in November 2025**

The Chair stated that the RSCDS Autumn Gathering will take place on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November in the Kelvin Hall. Glasgow Branch is entitled to five delegates at the Society AGM. It is usual for the four Office Bearers to be Branch Delegates i.e. Chair, Chair-elect, Secretary and Treasurer. One more delegate is required. Lyndsey McCrudden intimated that she would be prepared to be a delegate again. As no other members came forward there was no need for an election.

Approval:

Proposed by Peter Knapman

Seconded by Fiona McDonald

The delegates for Glasgow Branch at the Society AGM 2025 will be Ian Johnson, Hilary Wood, Anne Thorn, Aileen McKenzie and Lyndsey McCrudden. In the event of anyone being unable to attend, the Committee has the right to appoint a replacement delegate.

### **11 Appointment of the Safeguarding Officers**

The Chair highlighted that Safeguarding Officers roles had been advertised last year and due to the nature of these roles, applicants had been interviewed and appointed. Ian Johnson was confirmed as Lead Signatory. Anne Thorn and Carol Ann Knox were confirmed as the other two Safeguarding Team members.

### **12 Appointment of Glasgow Primary Schools Day of Dance Co-ordinator**

The Chair stated that this role has been undertaken by Fiona McDonald for a number of years. It is almost a year-long programme of work, liaising with Glasgow schools, arranging for school teachers to have training to be able to teach their pupils, arranging the accommodation and programme for the day, and co-ordinating the volunteers. She has indicated that she would like to step down from the role, and the Chair expressed the thanks of the Branch and our appreciation to her. Fiona was presented with flowers and thanked volunteers who have supported her over the years.

The Chair stated that Fiona Fairlie has indicated that she is willing to take on the role.

Fiona Fairlie was elected.

Proposed by Meg Barrowman

Seconded by Caitlin Abbott

### **13 Appointment of Archivist**

The Chair stated that Christopher Sanders, our current Archivist, is willing to remain in this post.

Proposed by Gale McCallum

Seconded by John Johnston

### **14 AOCB**

Chris Sanders asked if the Branch Report could be amended to state that the Branch ran three Nice and Easy Dances. This was agreed.

The Chair stated that now that the Nan Inch Fund is running low of funds the Committee had agreed to create a Designated Fund to support development work. Hamish Gibb asked what proportion of Branch funds would be allocated to the Designated Fund. The Chair explained that about £20,000 would be allocated to the Designated Fund and £20,000 would remain in

the General Fund. Debbie McAlees stated that it was pleasing that some of the Branch funds were going into development.

Muriel Bone commented that it was disappointing that only 56 out of 211 members completed the recent Branch survey. The Chair stated that according to statisticians a 25% return is a good response rate. He added that there were some very useful and interesting comments. He stated that the Sub Committee had collated the comments and the Branch Committee would agree the final wording for a report which he hoped would be ready to circulate to Branch members by the end of June.

Sandra McAllister stated that there had been a delay in the survey going out due to ill health but a return from 25% of the membership was exceptionally good and that a brief report would go to members.

The Secretary added that there was a meeting of teachers next week where some of the feedback about classes would be shared for teachers to consider how to respond to what dancers are asking for.

Debbie McAlees stated that the Sub Committee should be thanked for drafting the survey and collating the responses.

Sebastian Wanless stated that the Branch Committee should be congratulated for the work they have done this year and was pleased that the Branch Committee would be working with the Society when the Commonwealth Games is held in Glasgow in 2026. He added that the Branch need to think about how things can be developed with regard to Outreach. The Chair stated that he has been working on a Forward Plan for the Committee to consider different aspects of the Branch which can be taken forward in the future.

Muriel Bone commented that the Society were setting up a Scottish Commission to explore the challenges facing Scottish Branches. She asked if Glasgow Branch could have an input. Sebastian Wanless stated that this would be welcomed by William Williamson who would chair this group.

Margaret Sanders intimated that the Branch was running a Musicians' Course in Glasgow on the 14<sup>th</sup> of September. She has been liaising with RSCDS Leeds who run Musicians' Courses and with Ian Muir who has experience of running musicians' workshops and is keen to be involved. Margaret stated that Glasgow Branch will fund the Musicians' Workshop and there will be no charge for those musicians who attend. She added that this will be a trial and as a result the Workshop will take place on an afternoon to see how it goes.

Peter Knapman asked if it was a course aimed at musicians willing to play for a class or together? Margaret commented that she was not sure but Leeds Branch have been very supportive as they have experience running Musicians' Workshops. Peter Knapman stated that it was proving a challenge to find young musicians who were willing to play for classes and dances.

### **15 Date of next AGM – Thursday 21 May 2026**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending, for their support of the committee and for their help in keeping Scottish country going in the Glasgow area. He closed the meeting at 8.35 p.m.